

Appl. No. : 10/758,697
Filed : January 14, 2004

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed on April 4, 2006, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the above-referenced application in light of the amendments above and the comments below.

Allowed Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that Claims 39, 41 and 45-72 are in condition for allowance and that Claims 16-18 and 32-38 would be in condition for allowance if they are rewritten into independent form.

In this Amendment Applicant has canceled Claim 16 without prejudice and incorporated its limitations into independent Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent Claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claims 17 and 18 have been amended such that they now depend directly from Claim 1. Claims 2-15, 17-18, 21-24 and 31-38 depend directly or indirectly on Claim 1 and thus, for at least this reason, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

As explained below, Claims 32-38 have been rewritten into independent form as new Claims 87-93, which are also in condition for allowance.

Canceled Claims

In this Amendment, Claims 31, 73 and 74 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 6-15, 21-24, 31, 73 and 74 stand rejected as anticipated by Slocum. Claim 73 stands rejected as anticipated by Carwardine or Jacobesen. Claims 2-5 stand rejected as obvious over Slocum in view of Griebeler. Claim 74 stands rejected as anticipated by Akeel. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection of these claims for at least the reasons that were set forth in the previous response. Nevertheless, to advance prosecution of the allowed subject matter, Applicant has chosen to amend and/or cancel these claims as outlined above. Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue these rejected claims in their original or similar form in a continuing application.

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New Claims

Claims 32-38 have been rewritten into independent form as new Claims 87-93. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that these new claims are in condition for allowance.

Summary

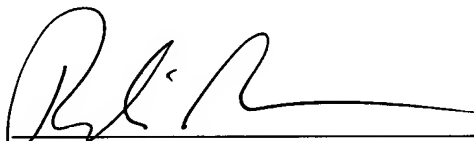
Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same. If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to initiate the same with the undersigned.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 8-4-06

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